

1. A ribozyme that specifically cleaves a target RNA sequence encoded by a HSV gene selected from the group consisting of UL20, UL30, UL54 and ICP4.

2. The ribozyme of claim 1, wherein the ribozyme is present in a hammerhead configuration.

3. The ribozyme of claim 1, wherein the gene is UL20.

4. The ribozyme of claim 1, wherein the gene is UL30.

5. The ribozyme of claim 1, wherein the gene is UL54.

6. The ribozyme of claim 1, wherein the gene is ICP4.

7. The ribozyme of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the ribozyme is comprised within a plasmid or viral vector.

8. The ribozyme of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the ribozyme is comprised within a cell.

9. A ribozyme comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, and 6.

10. The ribozyme of claim 9, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:1.

11. The ribozyme of claim 9, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:3.

12. The ribozyme of claim 9, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:5.

13. The ribozyme of claim 9, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:6.

14. The ribozyme of claim 9, wherein the ribozyme is comprised within a plasmid or viral vector.

5 15. The ribozyme of claim 9, wherein the ribozyme is comprised within a cell.

16. A method for impairing HSV replication in a cell, the method comprising the step of expressing in the cell, in an amount effective to reduce HSV replication in the cell, a ribozyme that specifically cleaves a target RNA sequence encoded by a HSV gene selected
10 from the group consisting of UL20, UL30, UL54 and ICP4.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the ribozyme is present in a hammerhead configuration.

15 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the gene is UL20.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the gene is UL30.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the gene is UL54.

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21. The method of claim 16, wherein the gene is ICP4.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the ribozyme comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, and 6.

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23. A ribozyme-resistant cell for producing a HSV expression vector encoding an anti-HSV ribozyme, the cell comprising at least one nucleotide sequence encoding a portion of an HSV gene, the nucleotide sequence having been modified to not be cleavable by the
30 ribozyme.